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REMARKS

The Office Action of December 29, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-8 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, which indication is appreciatively acknowledged.

Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Backram, by Dent and by Edelson. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to Backram, the signal  $U_{SMPL}$  in the cover figure is supplied as an *input signal* to a data converter (not shown). The bias signal to the microphone, on the other hand, is supplied by the supply circuit SPL, not by a companion A/D converter as claimed.

With respect to Dent, Figures 3 and 4, the signals produced by C11 and C12 are supplied as *input signals* to the illustrated data converter. The bias signal to the microphone, on the other hand, is supplied by the supply circuit including  $V_{CC}$  and associated resistors, not by a companion A/D converter as claimed.

With respect to Edelson, Figure 1, the feedback signal provided by amplifier 103 may, for sake of argument, be regarded as a bias signal. However, the amplifier 103 cannot be regarded as an A/D converter, which in the present invention provides the bias signal to the microphone. The A/D converter of Figure 4 of Edelson is intended to be connected to the output signal 105. It in no way produces a bias signal for the microphone.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to patentably define over the cited references.

Dependent claims 2-8 are also believed to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Ure", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Ure, Reg. 33,089

Dated: August 8, 2006